What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #164:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello! As the year draws to an end we are all starting to prepare for a better 2021. Around this time dealers and collectors are typically preparing for the huge New York International Coin Fair (or the FUN show if you like U.S. or World coinage). Obviously during the pandemic, doing a coin show is not possible so everything is virtual for the auctions. All the regulars: Triton, The New York Sale (M&M, Sovereign Rarities, Goldberg and Markov), Stacks Bowers Ponterio, Spink USA, Heritage and Baldwin's of St. James will hold their regular auctions. While the camaraderie and socializing won't necessarily be the same, the ANS will even hold their annual Gala (see below for more information). This newsletter will be dedicated to the January events that should have occurred at the New York International. I hope to see you all next year at the show. I will certainly be there with bells on!

There are some e-sales coming next week that will definitely be of interest to some of you. Solidus in Munich, Germany is hosting a rather substantial literature auction on January 3. There are over 2,000 lots and every imaginable book you might need for your numismatic library. As an aside, Ursula Kampmann has several books from her library being offered in this sale. CNG has their e-sale 483 on January 6. There are 910 lots in the sale and some nice offerings. A lot of folks will be saving their pennies for the larger auctions so this might be an opportunity for some of you. Lastly Roma has an electronic sale on January 14 with 1,436 lots.

For the auctions described below I will offer my representation services. Obviously during the pandemic I will be unable to view the coins but if there is a coin that needs a little more research you can count on me to provide this. If enough advance notice of your bids is given I should easily be able to reach out to any auction house with concerns or questions.

The New York Sale (12 January 2021)

The NY Sale is going to be held in Los Angeles at Goldberg offices this year. They have three catalogs with the first representing ancient coins. The sale is relatively small at only 199 coins. Although in auctions that we have seen in the last year where there are sometimes more than two thousand lots, it is a bit nice to have a concise auction. The Greek section has some attractive and a few exceedingly rare types. The biggest obstacle could be estimates in this section however. Some of the estimates are already very high so there is not much room when you figure in the buyer's premium. The republican section and moving forward has several coins from the William Oldknow collection. These coins are estimated much more reasonably and there are some good types available. You should be careful however while as Mr. Oldknow has a nice collection, he didn't pay as much attention to edge bumps and coins that were ex-jewelry. If this is important to you than you will want to carefully read the description and possibly request pictures of the edges if there is anything high priced of interest.

Triton XXIV (four sessions) (19-20 January 2021)

This is my write-up on Triton from my last newsletter. It was worth repeating:

Triton XXIV is conducting their regularly scheduled annual January sale but without the New York International as a backdrop. The auction will be conducted online, although as I understand it you can go to view coins at their offices if needed. The sale looks great. It is slightly bittersweet to see the first part of the catalog, The Peter Merani Collection. Mr. Merani was a lovely gentleman. I remember him fondly in New York, even last year. He was buying right up until the end of his life. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind a beautifully curated collection and certainly collectors will be excitedly buying his material. Lot 37 is evidence of his last purchase with me. A lovely Republican denarius of T. Vettius Sabinus. He purchased the coin specifically because the IVDEX on the reverse referenced the law and this touched him in a personal way. I reminisce about collectors that have left us when they buy coins with specific purposes in mind aside from aesthetics.

Part 2-4 contains several smaller collections. There are numerous beautiful electrum coins from the Jonathan P. Rosen collection. Rosen was honored a few years ago at the ANS Gala. His commitment to the world of numismatics is boundless. Rosen had an obvious fondness to electrum coinage and we will continue to see many coins that graced his collection being offered by various auction houses. This catalog is no exception. There are some excellent British hammered and Danish kings that are offered in the world section. I even enjoyed seeing the collection of Tiberius coinage assembled by the 93 year old collector David Feinstein (there is a heartwarming photograph of him at the beginning of the section). CNG has always done a good job of humanizing their collections by the stories they tell of the various collectors.

Heritage Platinum Night (21-22 January 2021)

Heritage will hold their traditional coin auctions in their Dallas headquarters. While they have a number of auctions representing the sales that would have occurred at the FUN show or NY International, I will just focus on part II and part III since that is primarily where we will see the top tier ancients they offer. Part II appears to have the highest grades of ancient coins on offer. There are only 45 coins and they are all Greek. The "Penn" collection has a few pieces in this sale and they boast pedigrees of early Triton auctions and Bank Leu. Lot 31002 is a very pretty and high grade tetradrachm from Catania. The details on the coin are superb with a sharp strike and pleasant symbols like the crayfish behind the head of Apollo on the reverse. Much of the legend is

visible and currently the estimate is not too high. The next lot, 31003, is a Naxos drachm that is also ex Penn and from an early Triton sale. The type recently sold a German auction for much more with similar quality. 31004 is another coin from Naxos, but this time a didrachm. The coin has overall wear but is scarce and not often seen in auction. Lot 30010 is one of my favorite Syracuse types. I love all the dynamics of the coin; the skylla on the obverse is amazing. This example comes from an early Triton sale and was formerly in the collection of the Phoenix Art Museum. Lot 31022 is a high quality tetradrachm of Demetrios Poliorcetes with beautiful toning and good strike. The pedigree is Ex Superior, private treaty, 1996.

Session III consists of lower grade and more commonly seen types. The estimates are more than reasonable and there are a few good buys certainly among the coins.

Generally I'd have to say that Heritage didn't get much for their ancient portion of the auction. I was a bit underwhelmed. I haven't looked at the world section but I'm sure that there are some good coins available.

ANS Activities - The GALA (14 January 2021)

The ANS Gala is just around the corner. While none of us will be getting all gussied up and heading over to the Harvard Club, we will be virtually meeting (and I suppose you could still get dressed up!). Please visit here: http://numismatics.org/2021-ans-gala/ for all the information on the Gala.

There is a pre-Gala program starting at 12:30 EST. This is probably most similar to the "cocktail" party before the event where people gather, see old friends and just have nice conversation. If you have attended any of the Friday virtual talks a few minutes earlier than planned then you've already experienced this is a bit. It is just people chatting with their friends. A great place to introduce yourself if you are new to the ANS.

The Gala itself is going to be great. There will be an introduction speech by Gilles Bransbourg, the new executive director of the ANS. Then comes what should be a very interesting talk by Jacob Goldstein of NPR's Planet Money. I don't know about you but I'm looking forward to hearing that talk as I am a big fan of Planet Money. Afterwards a short presentation about the ANS, some remarks from the new ANS president (prior executive director), Ute Wartenberg and finally a presentation to the honorees, Dr. Ira Rezak and Dr. Alan Stahl. If you want to read more about the honorees it is posted on the ANS site as well.

Please support the ANS. I truly believe that the ANS serves us all in some way. If the pandemic taught me one thing it was that learning is something that is a low cost of entry for most people that are actually interested. I've been truly blessed to be part of the ANS (I recently became a fellow, yay!) and meet the people I have through this experience. The ANS website gives lots of information so check it out and please join!

Coin of the Week

ROMAN REPUBLIC. C. Cossutius Maridianus (Julius Caesar). 44 BC
AR Denarius, 3.91g (18mm, 3h). Wreathed head of Caesar r., wearing veil; before, lituus; behind, apex; before, CAESAR upwards; behind PARENS PATRIAE upwards / C.COSSVTIVS and MARIDIANVS arranged in form of cross; in angles, A A A FF

Pedigree: Ex Brüder Egger 43, 1913, lot 14 (recently discovered)

References: Crawford 480/19. BMC 4187. B. Julia 43. Cossutia 2

Grade: Softly struck but complete. A small cut behind the head. Very pleasant in hand and pretty toning. Good VF

Price: $8,000

rr1172

Buy Coin

C. Cossutius Maridianus was a republican moneyer under Julius Caesar, and one of four moneyers minting in Rome during 44 BC. He was also possibly a relative of the L. Cossetius Sabula (q.v.) who issued coins in 74 BC in Rome.

This coin shows Caesar wearing a veil which suggests that this coin was certainly issued after his death.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-repuclic/roman-republic-c-cossutius-maridianus-julius-caesar-44-bc?rq=rr1172

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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